

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00325 201606Z
ACTION EB-07

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R 201521Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9736
INFO AMCONSUL ANTWERP
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, EINV, ELAB, BBAK, NE NL
SUBJ: BANKRUPTCY OF BADGER (BELGIUM) N.V. (RAYTHEON CORP)

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 282; (B) BRUSSELS 386; (C) STATE 9787

1. TWO RECENTLY DISCHARGED BELGIAN EMPLOYEES OF BADGER (ANTWERP) CALLED AT EMBASSY THE HAGUE JANUARY 17 TO ALERT US TO DEMONSTRATION OF DISCHARGED BELGIAN WORKERS PLANNED FOR JANUARY 20 IN FRONT OF EMBASSY AND AT BADGER THE HAGUE. DEMONSTRATIONS, WITH CLEARANCE OF DUTCH POLICE, TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED. ORDERLY GROUP OF OVER ONE HUNDRED APPEARED BEFORE EMBASSY BEARING PLACARDS CONDEMNING BADGER, READ PROCLAMATION OVER LOUD SPEAKER, AND PRESENTED SIGNED PETITION TO EMBASSY PROTESTING BADGERS BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS IN BELGIUM AND REQUESTING EMBASSYS SUPPORT IN PERSUADING BADGER TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS DISCHARGED EMPLOYEES.

2. FOLLOWING SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION AT BADGER THE HAGUE OFFICES, DELEGATION OF SIX DISCHARGED BELGIAN EMPLOYEES SAT DOWN WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR LANGER FOR FORTY FIVE
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PAGE 02 THE HA 00325 201606Z

MINUTE DISCUSSION. ACCORDING TO LANGER IT WAS AGREED THAT LAWYERS FROM BOTH SIDES WOULD MEET "TO SEEK GROUND FOR AMICABLE SETTLEMENT POSSIBILITY".

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: DISCHARGED EMPLOYEES OF BADGER ANTWERP ARE EFFECTIVELY USING PUBLIC MEDIA IN GAINING SUPPORT AND SYMPATHYFOR THIER CAUSE. WHILE BADGER

THE HAGUE AND ITS PARENT RAYTHEON MAY HAVE CONCLUDED
THEY HAVE LEGALLY ACCEPTABLE GROUNDS FOR THEIR ACTIONS
IN TERMINATING THEIR BELGIAN OPERATION, THEY ALSO ARE
CONTINUING TO HARVEST ILL WILL AND BAD PUBLICITY THAT WILL
HURT THE PUBLIC IMAGE NOT ONLY OF BADGER-RAYTHEON BUT ALSO
OF AMERICAN MULTINATIONAL FIRMS GENERALLY. CURRENT WILLINGNESS
OF LANGER TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF AMICABLE SETTLEMENT APPEARS
HOPEFUL. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS REMAINED IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH
LANGER, DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO APPRISE BADGER US AND RAYTHEON
OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS.

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Message Attributes

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